UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1997/4
20 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-ninth session
10-14 February 1997
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session with respect to the work on international economic and social classifications. It provides an overview of how the recommendations of the Commission concerning international statistical classifications have been addressed since that session. The report of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications, convened in New York from 24 to 26 June 1996 is contained in annex I. Points for discussion are set out in paragraph 8.

* E/CN.3/1997/1.

96-32822 (E) 111296

/...

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS	1 - 2	3
	A. Recommendations on international classifications made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session	1	3
	B. Activities carried out in response to requests of the Commission	2	4
II.	ADDITIONAL WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS SINCE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION	3 - 7	5
III.	POINTS FOR DISCUSSION	8	6

Annexes

I.	Report of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications	8
II.	Family of international economic and social classifications	12

I. STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommendations on international classifications made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session

1. The Statistical Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, endorsed the work programme of the Expert Group on International Classifications (E/CN.3/1995/16) and recommended:

(a) In the field of economic classifications:[1]

(i) Utilizing existing groups, such as the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, in the elaboration of technical details of the various classifications (see para. 2 (a) below and document E/CN.3/1997/5);

(ii) Convening a second meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications with the goal of identifying mechanisms to improve the coordination of classifications and expanding the work to include social classifications; the Expert Group should report to the Commission (see para. 2 (b) below and annex I, paras. 4 and 14);

(iii) Continuing the work on the revision of the provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) by the Voorburg Group and ensuring wider participation of countries outside the Voorburg Group in commenting on proposals for revision of the classification (see paras.2 (a) and (c) below and document E/CN.3/1997/5);

(iv) Including the recommendations for the CPC revision in a new version, labelled 1.0, after thorough consideration of the structure of CPC to ensure its adequacy both for reflecting new technologies and for facilitating future revisions (see para. 2 (e) below and document E/CN.3/1997/5);

(v) Setting up a mechanism for maintaining CPC and making efforts for a coordinated revision of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and CPC for goods and services (see para. 2 (e) below and annex I, para. 13 (d));

(b) In the field of industrial statistics:[2]

(i) Drafting operational guidelines designed to link time series expressed in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 2 (ISIC, Rev.2),[3] with new short-term series expressed in ISIC, Rev.3[4] (see para. 2 (f) below);

(ii) Promoting common approaches for the conversion from national and other classifications to ISIC, Rev.3 and, as far as resources permit, assisting in training experts (see para. 2 (g) below);

(iii) Launching a classifications hot line in the Statistics Division to handle and register queries relating to the conversion process from ISIC, Rev.2 to ISIC, Rev.3 (see para. 2 (h) below);

(iv) Distributing to Member States manuals, correspondence tables and other technical materials to promote the implementation of ISIC, Rev.3 (see para. 2 (i) below).

B. Activities carried out in response to requests of the Commission

2. In response to the Commission's requests, the following major activities have been carried out since the twenty-eighth session:

(a) The deep involvement of the Voorburg Group in classification development work - in particular, in the ongoing revision of CPC - continued throughout the period 1995-1996;

(b) The Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications, organized by the Statistics Division, was held in New York from 24 to 26 June 1996 with a broadening representation of countries and agencies active in the field of international economic and social classifications (see annex I for the report of the Meeting);

(c) The Classifications Subgroup of the Voorburg Group, headed by Statistics Canada, involved a large number of experts with diverse national experience. The Subgroup worked in close cooperation with the Statistics Division on finalizing the revision of the services part of CPC;

(d) On completion of a major revision process, CPC version 1.0 was finalized and discussed at a meeting of the Voorburg Group, held in Wales from 15 to 17 September 1996. The Commission has before it, at its present session, the report of the Voorburg Group describing the new CPC (see E/CN.3/1997/5); in sum, sections 5-9 of the provisional CPC have been thoroughly revised, restructured and complemented;

(e) The Expert Group agreed on a strategy for future revisions of CPC (see annex I, para. 13 (d)). Regarding the question of CPC's correspondence with HS, in the course of the revision of CPC that has just been completed, correspondences were established, checked and updated between the two classifications, as well as with ISIC, Rev.3 and the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3) so that this information could be incorporated in the forthcoming publication on CPC;

(f) Although no specific activities with regard to the linking of time series between ISIC, Rev.2 and ISIC, Rev.3 have been carried out, correspondence tables and indexes including correspondences between the two revisions have been developed by the Statistics Division;

(g) A monitoring process for the national implementation of ISIC, Rev.3 was set up and frequent consultations have been held with national statistical

agencies for clarification of the recommendation. Regarding training, no further progress can be reported at present;

(h) The Classifications Hot Line (CHL) established in the Statistics Division is broader in scope than the one originally suggested by the Commission. It is not limited to queries regarding ISIC, but handles all kinds of requests in the field of economic and social classifications and promotes common approaches, principles and conventions relating to the use of classifications. The Hot Line is accessible by mail, facsimile or telephone and electronically on the Internet at chl@un.org. All related information is recorded and stored in an information registry database to keep track of the inquiries and take them into consideration for the planning of future improvements and the revision of classifications. CHL, which is intended to be a practical central reference service of international classifications, has been well received by users since its installation in early 1996. In the first five months, during the first phase of design and implementation, over 70 requests and queries from users have been handled through the Hot Line;

(i) Distribution of classification-related documents, publications, manuals and technical papers, including correspondence tables, continued and was not limited to ISIC. Printed documents were distributed, as were electronically transmittable files on diskettes and through the Internet by e-mail.

II. ADDITIONAL WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS SINCE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

3. A Classifications Inventory is being developed as part of the International Classifications Database system for global monitoring of developments in the field of classifications, recently created in the Statistics Division. Based on the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group, the Inventory has been designed and the first round of data collection and entry has begun. The Inventory includes detailed descriptions of all classifications identified in the family of international economic and social classifications (see annex II). The International Classifications Database contains two of the main international economic classifications, namely ISIC and the provisional CPC. The Database also provides three major correspondence tables for comparing and using data originating from ISIC, HS and CPC. It also contains an alphabetical index of ISIC, Rev.3 and data for the global monitoring of the national implementation of classifications, based on information collected through questionnaires circulated by the Statistics Division in 1992.

4. The following is a brief description of the three major correspondence tables:

(a) The ISIC correspondence table compares ISIC, Rev.2 and ISIC, Rev.3 and has been updated based on the collaborative work of the Statistics Division, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), Statistics Canada and the United States Bureau of the Census. It is being distributed on request, through CHL. Moreover, a newly prepared alphabetical index to ISIC, Rev.3 (four-digit level) classes is now available for trial use from the Database;

(b) The HS correspondence table compares HS with three other classifications, namely ISIC, CPC and SITC. The initial version of the HS correspondence table was first produced and circulated by the Statistics Division in 1993. The current table is an updated version of that document, reflecting changes resulting from the revision of HS in 1996;

(c) The CPC correspondence table compares CPC with ISIC, HS and SITC. Recent changes made in this correspondence table reflect the recommendations of the Subgroup on Classifications to the Voorburg Group to adapt CPC to the newly revised HS 96 and also reflect related changes in correspondence to SITC and ISIC.

5. Work undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on developing System of National Accounts (SNA) functional classifications, the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP), the Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (COPNI) and the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) is assisted by the Statistics Division through circulating the draft documents of functional classifications to non-OECD member States for comment. The draft proposal of COICOP was sent in January 1996 to 140 countries and 16 international organizations, of which more than 40 countries and two international organizations have responded thus far. The remarks of countries have been summarized by the Statistics Division and all contributions have been submitted to OECD for consideration in the revision process. It is expected that the Statistics Division will conduct a similar review exercise for the newly revised Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG).

6. A draft revised list of products and materials for the collection of international commodity production statistics has been prepared by the Statistics Division, based on PRODCOM, the list of industrial products of EUROSTAT. Tables of correspondence have also been prepared linking the draft revised list to PRODCOM, SITC, Rev.3 and HS, and work is in progress to establish correspondence with the provisional CPC. The draft revised list and its correspondence tables are available on request through CHL. The draft revised list has been circulated to selected countries and international organizations for comment.

7. As recommended by the Expert Group on International Classifications, plans are being made to review and discuss the role, purpose and structure of the draft revised list, in the light of CPC version 1.0 and SITC, Rev.3, for compilation of comparable international economic statistics. Preliminary discussions have begun between the Statistics Division and the Voorburg Group to seek ways to include the draft revised list in future work on the revision and updating of the goods part (sections 0-4) of CPC.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

8. The Statistical Commission may wish to discuss, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group: (a) the preparation of a module, for use in the Common Code of Statistical Practice in the United Nations System, on best practices for the development and use of international classifications (see

annex I, para. 8 (h)); and (b) strategies for bridging differences between all commodity nomenclatures through increased dissemination and use of CPC, with specific attention to the goals of future work on the revision of the goods part (sections 0-4) of CPC (see para. 7 above and annex I, para. 13 (d)).

Notes

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8 (E/1995/28), para. 46.

[2] Ibid., para. 16.

[3] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev. 2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.8).

[4] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.11).

Annex I

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

1. The Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications was convened in New York from 24 to 26 June 1996 at the request of the Statistical Commission, based on the recommendation of the Expert Group at its first meeting, in 1994. At that meeting, the Expert Group prepared a plan for improving the coordination of future work on international classifications, which contained the following conclusions:

(a) Classification work is important and resource-intensive:

(i) It is an ongoing process, involving the development, maintenance, updating, implementation and dissemination of classifications;

(ii) The preparation of indexes, tables of correspondence, and guidance for use are integral parts of the overall work;

(b) International, multinational and national classifications are interrelated;

(c) The existing classification groups are, in some cases, linked and they are often used together;

(d) Within some groups of classifications (at least the activity group and the goods and services group), one or two "core" classifications can be identified.

2. The Expert Group also recognized that important additional work must be undertaken, mainly for identifying mechanisms to improve coordination. Because of the growing interdependence of classifications, there was general agreement that further work on classifications could not be carried out effectively unless a network was established defining the relations between classifications.

Terms of reference of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications

3. In order to move towards the identification of mechanisms for improving coordination, it was recommended that the United Nations Statistics Division convene a second meeting of the Expert Group to consider three topics: (i) a network of classifications: the conceptual linkages; (ii) coordinating mechanisms in a setting of linked and interrelated classifications; and (iii) social statistics: where do they fit into the picture? It addition, it was requested that at the second meeting the Expert Group formulate further recommendations for improving coordination that would be reported to the Statistical Commission in 1997. Participants in the second meeting included representatives of international and multinational organizations and representatives of a limited number of countries. A list of participants is contained in the appendix below.

I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING CLASSIFICATIONS AND THEIR LINKAGES

4. The Expert Group agreed to focus its attention on economic and social classifications and recognized the usefulness of exploring linkages between existing classifications and considering ways to harmonize their concepts as a part of a family of classifications. The Expert Group identified the components of such a network or family of international economic and social classifications that required further coordination and work (see annex II for a list containing the family of classifications).

5. Some members felt that the notion of "core classifications" as described at the first Meeting of the Expert Group brought in the idea of a hierarchy of classifications that was not necessary. The Expert Group preferred the term "reference classifications".

6. The Expert Group considered that the coordination and harmonization of international classifications required that proper attention be given to the following: examining the adequacy of classifications and signalling the need for the preparation of new classifications; identifying links and inconsistencies among them; considering the developmental requirements of existing and new classifications and responding to them in an organized manner.

7. The Expert Group agreed that in addition to the need for further development of the family of classifications, concerted attention must be paid to learning more about existing classifications with particular reference to the translation and wording of similar concepts and terms across classifications. Information about the family of classifications should include an inventory of their availability, scope, links, correspondences, details and plans for revision. Those attributes must be shared through coordinating mechanisms such as the development of a classifications inventory and the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information through the Classifications Hot Line. The Expert Group also agreed that it was necessary to identify the custodians responsible for and mandated to carry out revisions of international classifications, their developmental changes and implementation schemes, in order to ensure that their conclusions and recommendations were widely distributed for further discussion and consideration.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING COORDINATION ACROSS THE FAMILY OF CLASSIFICATIONS

8. The Expert Group identified problems that justified the need for closer cooperation and further development, as follows:

(a) No central registration of problems regarding consistency of concept and measurement between classifications and the general economic and social statistics frameworks;

(b) Unjustified inconsistency in the use of the same concept across international classifications;

(c) Lack of transparency and easy access to information on the development and maintenance of classifications;

(d) Lack of documentation as to why and how certain changes were decided in the various revision processes;

(e) Timing problems in the revision process, providing insufficient opportunity for the full participation of and contributions from the international statistical community;

(f) Lack of a coordinating mechanism for bilateral and multilateral work between countries wishing to exchange technical assistance and information on classifications and related matters;

(g) Insufficient guidelines, strategies and methods for implementing international classification standards at the national level;

(h) Lack of a statement of best practices for the development and use of international classifications;

(i) Lack of availability of harmonized country and area classifications.

9. The Expert Group did not consider it useful or necessary to create a new coordinating body and agreed instead on a coordinating mechanism in which the Statistics Division would play a pivotal role. It stressed the importance of the coordination role of the Statistics Division in resolving differences and in harmonizing classifications, including further work on the development of correspondence tables, and, where appropriate, in assisting in the identification of classification commonalities. The Expert Group also stressed the need for increased opportunities for the exchange of information on existing economic and social classifications. Five major roles were identified for the Statistics Division in the resolution of the above-mentioned problems, the first four of which would be usefully supported by an inventory of classifications:

(a) Providing a central point for registering both existing and proposed classifications;

(b) Increasing access to the classifications by the international community and national statistical offices through a full display and wide provision of information;

(c) Identifying the custodians of classifications and the official points of contact and encouraging the exchange of information between them;

(d) Providing notice of the revision process and the implications of changes being made, and assisting in identifying potential problems with proposed modifications with respect to the consistency and harmonization of existing classifications;

(e) Proactive signalling to the Statistical Commission of issues requiring a larger forum for solutions.

10. In addition to the above roles, the Statistics Division has an advisory function and the responsibility for mobilizing outside expertise and for conducting meetings, as needed, to seek solutions to common problems and explore areas not already covered. It should also improve dissemination of information for reducing inefficiencies caused by duplicate activities.

11. The Expert Group agreed with the Statistics Division that notwithstanding its pivotal role in classifications, its capability could be augmented by seeking assistance from national statistical offices and from other multinational and international agencies.

12. It is proposed that statistical classifications be included as a standing item on the agenda of the Statistical Commission.

13. In view of the major roles of the Statistics Division described in paragraph 9 above, the Expert Group made proposals for defining the immediate steps related to the question of coordination that need to be taken by the Statistics Division to implement the recommendations of the Second Meeting. They include:

(a) Continuing the ongoing work, in cooperation with Eurostat and other interested organizations, on the development of the inventory of classifications;

(b) Developing and extending the use of the Classifications Hot Line;

(c) Disseminating current information on classifications through the expanded use of electronic media, such as the Internet, and through circulars;

(d) Requesting country assistance through, for example, the Voorburg Group, to conduct a review of and revise the goods part of CPC; and verifying the role, purpose, function and conceptual basis for the revision of the goods part of CPC;

(e) Continuing work on the correspondence tables;

(f) Cooperating with relevant organizations on the ongoing revisions of the classifications;

(g) Recording and making available rulings on classifications.

14. Suggestions were made for the agenda of the Third Meeting of the Expert Group, to be held in 1997. It was recommended that the name of the Group be changed to Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications so as to reflect the conclusions of the present meeting. The agenda of the Third Meeting would include reporting on the progress of work based upon the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group; and bringing together custodians of key classifications and considering their development plans and key problems. In particular, the participation of custodians of social classifications was stressed in order to give emphasis to the importance of social dimensions in the family of classifications.

Annex II

FAMILY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS*

Economic Activities

Reference

ISIC

Derived

ANZSIC, NACE

Related

NAICS

Goods and services

Reference

CPC, HS

Derived

CPA, SITC

Related

Trade in services

Expenditure by purpose

COFOG, COICOP, COPNI, COPP

Employment and occupation

ICSE, ISCO

Social

ICD, ICIDH, ISCED

Country

M49 Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use

Other

Geographic

Time use[a]

---

* The abbreviations are written out in full in the appendix below.

[a] Included as a potential new classification that might provide another bridge between social and economic classifications.

Appendix

ABBREVIATIONS

ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose
COPNI	Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households
COPP	Classification of Outlays of Producers by Purpose
CPA	Classification of Products by Activity
CPC	Provisional Central Product Classification
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
ICD	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
ICIDH	International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities, and Handicaps
ICSE	International Classification of Status in Employment
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
M49	Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use
NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

Appendix

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Countries

Austria	Norbert Rainer
Canada	Jacob Ryten Shaila Nijhowne
France	Emile Bruneau
India	Shri Ramesh Kolli
Mexico	Enrique Ordaz
Russian Federation	Victor Korobov Valfrid Treier
South Africa	M. D. Nel
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Julian Calder
United States of America	Paul Bugg Jack E. Triplett

International institutions

Caribbean Community	Margaret Ellis
4-15 Statistical Office of the European Communities	Niels Langkjaer John Knight
International Monetary Fund	Adriaan Bloem
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	David Roberts
World Bank	Michael Ward Aelim Chi
United Nations Children's Fund	Eva Jespersen
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Claudia Valencia
World Health Organization	Mayumi Ueda
Word Trade Organization	Jean-Maurice Léger

United Nations Secretariat

Hermann Habermann, Director
Statistics Division

Cristina Hannig, Chief
Economic Statistics Branch

Mary Chamie, Chief
Statistical Classifications Section

Virgilio Castillo
Statistical Classifications Section

Magda Csizmadia
Statistical Classifications Section

Hensley Francis
Statistical Classifications Section

Bernd Becker
National Accounts Section

Stefan Schweinfest
National Accounts Section

Vladimir Markhonko, Chief
Trade Methodology and Analysis Section

Vasily Romanovsky, Officer-in-Charge
Industrial Statistics Section

Oleg Volkov
Demographic Statistics Section

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1997/5
11 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-ninth session
10-14 February 1997
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification.[1] The report is contained in the annex. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session.[2]

Notes

[1] The revised version is before the Statistical Commission as "Draft Central Product Classification (Services Part; Sections 5-9) Version 1.0" (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 (Version 1.0)).

[2] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8 (E/1995/28), para. 48.

* E/CN.3/1997/1.

96-35950 (E) 060197 080197

/...

Annex

REPORT OF THE VOORBURG GROUP ON SERVICE STATISTICS

1. The Statistical Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, endorsed the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics, recommending changes to the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC)[a] for services, and agreed that the work of the Voorburg Group should continue.[b]

2. The Commission[b]:

(a) Recommended that the revisions proposed by the Voorburg Group be incorporated into the new version of the CPC, to be labelled "Version 1.0", and that mechanisms similar to those used by the World Customs Organization for maintaining its Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) be set up for maintaining the CPC;

(b) Stressed the desirability of wider participation of countries outside the Voorburg Group in commenting on proposals for revision, as well as the need to not weaken links to the Classification of Products by Activities (CPA) of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat);

(c) Recommended that, since the work on the HS and the CPC for services was to be carried out under the direction of different bodies, there should be coordination of the efforts to revise, respectively, goods and services. Newspapers and the electronic media were given as examples of such ambiguous entities;

(d) Endorsed the need to ensure that the structure of the CPC adequately reflected new technologies (for example, the "technological fusion" of communications and computers) and that there would be "upward compatibility" of future revisions of the CPC, as well as consideration of the effects of classification revisions on the comparability of statistical time-series.

3. The following summarizes the actions taken by the Voorburg Group in order to address the Commission's requests.

4. The Voorburg Group felt that even though not all parts of the CPC and its structure had been fully reviewed and revised, significant improvements had been made, mainly to the services part (sections 5-9) of the classification. The correspondence tables to the goods part (sections 0-4) had been updated to reflect the 1996 changes in the HS. For these reasons, the CPC was forwarded to the United Nations Statistics Division with the recommendation that the entire classification be published.[c] The Group also recommended to the Division that this version replace the provisional CPC and be called "CPC Version 1.0" in recognition of the fact that the classification's revision is an ongoing process.

5. The Voorburg Group reviewed the CPC in the light of the experience of its members, comments received from States Members of the United Nations to whom the earlier report was circulated, results of consultations with international

organizations, and developments in other international classifications. The revision referred to in this paper[6] reflects improvements at the more detailed levels of the classification, although some changes to the higher-level groupings have also been made. The explanatory notes have been expanded. They now cover all the classes of the CPC and have been changed from descriptive notes to itemized lists of products.

6. The Voorburg Group was mindful of maintaining links with the CPA at the detailed level of the CPC and benefited from the participation of classification experts from Eurostat.

7. The Voorburg Group noted the interest of the Statistical Commission in adequately reflecting new technology in the revised CPC. Steps taken in this direction include the creation of one new division in CPC Version 1.0 for Telecommunications Services, Information Retrieval and Supply Services.

8. The Voorburg Group recognized that the structure of the goods part of the CPC should be reviewed and revised in the light of the need to create a Harmonized System (HS) based classification that can be better used to analyse domestic production and international trade statistics. In view of the need for coordination and continuity in the revision of both the goods and services parts of the CPC, a group will be constituted on product classifications. Its first task will be to verify the role, purpose, function and conceptual basis for a revision of the goods part of the CPC. It will then undertake the task of reviewing and revising the goods part of the CPC. It will also make recommendations on such questions of interpretation and rulings relating to the services part of CPC Version 1.0 as are referred to it by the United Nations Statistics Division.

9. The Voorburg Group has already reviewed the goods part of the CPC to some extent by updating it in accordance with the 1996 revisions of the Harmonized System (HS), after which the United Nations Statistics Division updated its links to the Standard Industrial Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3 (ISIC Rev. 3). Changes in the correspondences between these two classifications and CPC Version 1.0 can be found in a background document before the Commission at the present session.

10. The Voorburg Group noted the need for the United Nations Statistics Division to provide regular feedback on the CPC to the Statistical Commission and its Working Group at their future sessions.

11. Since the Voorburg Group has made some important changes to the structure of the provisional CPC, in order to assist users in maintaining time-series continuity, it has provided a concordance showing the relationship between the provisional CPC and CPC Version 1.0 in an appendix to CPC Version 1.0.

Points for discussion

12. The Commission may wish to discuss the following:

(a) With respect to CPC Version 1.0, does the Commission endorse the recommendation of the Voorburg Group with regard to the publication of CPC Version 1.0?

(b) With respect to the goods part of the CPC:

(i) Are the arrangements proposed for the forthcoming review satisfactory?

(ii) What interim reporting on progress do the members of the Commission feel is required?

Notes

[a] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XVII.7.

[b] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8 (E//1995/28), para. 48.

[c] PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/Ser.M/77 (Version 1.0).

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1997/6
3 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-ninth session
10-14 February 1997
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Task Force on Environment Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics (Convener: Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat), which is contained in the annex; the members of the Task Force are listed in the appendix. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session, as well as a request of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its eighteenth session.

* E/CN.3/1997/1.

96-34819 (E) 080197 090197

/...

Annex

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
I. FRAMEWORK FOR TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES	5 - 6	3
II. ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS	7 - 12	4
A. Gaps and duplication of work	8 - 10	4
B. Goals, milestones and priorities	11 - 12	5
III. ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING	13 - 17	5
A. Gaps and duplication of work	14 - 16	6
B. Goals, milestones and priorities	17	6
IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION	18	6

Tables

Table 1. Planned activities 8

Table 2. Priorities 20

Appendix. List of members of the Task Force on Environment Statistics and invited non-governmental organizations 24

INTRODUCTION

1. The Task Force on Environment Statistics was established by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination of the Statistical Commission at its fifteenth session. Its terms of reference, as proposed by the Working Group, were endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session. The list of members of the Task Force and invited non-governmental organizations is contained in the appendix.

2. At its twenty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission recommended that the Task Force undertake efforts to develop a framework for the various activities, indicating their relative priority and links to the policy agenda of national and international environmental agencies (see para. 5 below), and providing milestones against which progress could be measured (see paras. 11 and 17 below).*

3. At its eighteenth session, the Working Group stressed (see E/CN.3/1997/19, para. 19) that the report of the Task Force should present the work programmes of the different organizations, identify gaps and describe major strategic dimensions or goals of international work in the field of environment statistics (see sects. II and III below).

4. The United Nations Statistics Division, as the Convener of the Task Force, had proposed to hold the second meeting of the Task Force at the beginning of February 1996. Since the majority of the members of the Task Force indicated that they would be unable to attend, however, the meeting was cancelled. The Statistics Division has therefore prepared the present report in response to the request of the Statistical Commission, taking into consideration the comments of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its eighteenth session. The report includes information supplied by the members of the Task Force and invited non-governmental organizations in response to a Statistics Division questionnaire. The draft report was distributed to the members of the Task Force, and has since been revised and updated in response to their comments.

I. FRAMEWORK FOR TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

5. In response to the request of the Statistical Commission to develop a framework for Task Force activities, the present report summarizes the plans and priorities of the various organizations under a common format. Tables 1 and 2 reflect the framework of an integrated presentation of programmes established by the Task Force at its first meeting (New York, 12 September 1994). In table 1, three categories of activities are distinguished for each organization: (a) basic environment statistics, (b) environmental indicators and (c) environmental accounting. Environment statistics comprise statistical variables collected through monitoring and primary statistical surveys and records. Environmental indicators can be considered as a selection from or combination of primary statistics; they are typically targeted on key environmental concerns or policy objectives. Environmental accounting presents environmental data in a national accounting system that facilitates aggregation

and cross-sectoral comparison. Within each area, activities are shown for: (a) data collection, (b) methodology and (c) technical cooperation. Information on priorities, as reported by the members of the Task Force, is presented in table 2.

6. The coverage of activities and priorities under this framework is limited to those members of the Task Force and invited non-governmental organizations that have supplied the requested information.[b] Despite the limited information available, an attempt has been made in the following sections to provide an analysis of the global situation in the fields of environment statistics, environmental indicators and environmental accounting. In response to the request of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination (see para. 3 above), major gaps, strategic dimensions or goals in those fields and milestones against which progress could be measured are described. In the case of duplication of work, suggestions for filling the gaps and improving coordination are also made. Due to a lack of information, links to national and international policy agendas could not be assessed.

II. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

7. As indicated in paragraph 5 above, tables 1 and 2 distinguish between environmental statistics and indicators based on the framework developed by the Task Force at its first meeting. However, environmental indicators are typically presented as a component of environment statistics. The following (and future) description of Task Force activities will therefore distinguish between environmental statistics and accounting only.

A. Gaps and duplication of work

8. The availability of comparable environmental statistics and indicators is a major gap at the global level. To some extent, that gap will be closed by the compilation of environmental indicators by the Statistics Division, which will be fully coordinated with those compiled by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for its member States. There does not seem to be any duplication in data collection with the relevant specialized agencies and organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) or regional bodies (regional commissions, Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (STATCIS)) compiling data for their particular areas of responsibility. A certain risk of overlap in data collection is present, however, in indicator development and testing carried out by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat. The Statistics Division is working with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development so that data collection from national statistical services may be coordinated and national reporting burdens minimized.

9. In the development of concepts and methods of environment statistics, the focus of international work seems to have shifted from basic statistical frameworks and variables to the development of environmental and sustainable development indicators. There is a proliferation of frameworks and indicator sets, as evidenced by a recent international workshop on indicators of sustainable development[c] and as can be seen from the methodological activities described in table 1. The Inter-governmental Working Group on the Advancement of Environment Statistics coordinates the development of environmental indicators. The development of indicators of sustainable development is coordinated by the Department on behalf of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

10. As shown in table 1, technical cooperation for capacity-building is carried out by several specialized organizations without risk of work duplication. At present, there seems to be a distinct lack of technical cooperation carried out by regional organizations even though most organizations envision such programmes in their work-plans. Training and capacity-building undertaken by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development focuses on data use and is expected to complement national and regional activities of capacity-building in environmental statistics and indicators.

B. Goals, milestones and priorities

11. No clear distinction between goals and milestones can be drawn from the responses of Task Force members. The milestones reported were the following: (a) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): the enhancement of the capability to generate reliable and timely environmental statistics and indicators; (b) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): the development and strengthening of the national capabilities of the statistical offices in the region so that the regular and systematic collection of a minimum set of environmental statistics and indicators for a selected group of countries in the region could be achieved; (c) FAO: the release of a guide on agri-environmental statistics and indicators for sustainable development by the end of 1996, and the publication, in 1997, of the State of the World's Forest; and (d) the Statistics Division: publication of a compendium of environmental statistics and indicators in 1998.

12. Table 2 shows that organizations give first priority to different areas of environmental statistics and indicators, including data collection, methodological development and capacity-building in their respective areas of responsibility.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

13. Environmental accounting is still in a stage of methodological development. Except for data collection in selected areas of environmental accounting undertaken by Eurostat and STATCIS, no international compilation has therefore been conducted or is planned in this area.

A. Gaps and duplication of work

14. Different frameworks and methodologies of environmental accounting have been advanced, notably the Dutch National Accounting Matrix including Environmental Accounts (NAMEA), natural resource accounts pioneered by Norway and France and further developed as material/energy balances by Germany, and a satellite account for environmental protection expenditure developed by Eurostat. The Statistics Division has attempted to reflect all these approaches in its Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting,[d] which it considered as work in progress. Other concepts and methods have been proposed for particular environmental concerns and different objectives of policy analysis. The proliferation of methodologies has led to some confusion and duplication of work in technical cooperation projects. The Statistics Division proposes, therefore, to create and maintain a bulletin board of technical cooperation projects in environmental statistics, indicators and accounting, providing information on country, project type and contact persons.

15. All these frameworks, concepts and methods are regularly explored by the London Group of environmental accounting experts.[e] The Statistics Division will present to the Group at its next meeting a proposal for revising the United Nations Handbook, building on the commonalities of the different approaches and experiences gained in country applications. It is proposed to establish a collaborative programme between the Statistics Division and the London Group to build consensus for the revision of the Handbook.

16. Task Force members involved in the development of integrated accounting are collaborating in the Nairobi Group[f] which is preparing an operational manual on environmental accounting. The manual will provide a practical step-by-step description on how to implement the System of integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) at the national level. The manual will be applied in country projects envisaged by the Statistics Division and the World Bank, with the possible cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

B. Goals, milestones and priorities

17. ECA reported as milestones the application of environmental accounting in member States. The Statistics Division indicated two milestones: the operational manual on integrated environmental and economic accounting, and the revision of SEEA in the long term. First priority is given to methodological work by the Statistics Division, Eurostat and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

IV. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

18. The Statistical Commission may wish to discuss:

(a) Priorities of work for the different members of the Task Force, notably with regard to filling gaps and avoiding duplication;

(b) The proposal by the United Nations Statistics Division to create a bulletin board for technical cooperation projects in the area of environmental statistics, indicators and accounting;

(c) Collaboration between the Statistics Division and the London Group on the revision of SEEA;

(d) Future work of the Task Force.

Notes

[a] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8 (E/1995/28), para. 77 (b).

[b] Of the 23 members of the Task Force, 13 provided information on plans and priorities for inclusion in the attached tables, of which 4 reported on goals and/or milestones and 2 on gaps.

[c] The Scientific Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development was held in Wuppertal, Germany from 15 to 17 November 1995; it was organized by the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, Charles University Environmental Center in Prague, and the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy.

[d] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XVII.12.

[e] The London Group was established in March 1994; it represents 14 mainly industrialized countries and 5 international organizations. Since then, it has held meetings at Washington in 1995 and at Stockholm in 1996.

[f] The Nairobi Group was established by the United Nations Environment Programme in November 1995 to advance work on environmental accounting. It includes experts from the World Bank, Habitat, Eurostat, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Table 1. Planned activities

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
United Nations Statistics Division	Methodology Glossary of environment statistics (1996) Technical cooperation Technical support to national/regional efforts in the implementation of environment statistics programmes	Data collection Compendium on environmental indicators (1998) Methodology Manual on environmental statistics and indicators (1997)	Methodology Operational manual on integrated environmental and economic accounting for implementation of SEEA at the national level (1997) Regional (subnational) environmental accounting Revision of SEEA Technical cooperation Technical support to national efforts in the implementation of environmental accounting programmes (Philippines, Indonesia, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica) Test methodologies on regional (subnational) environmental accounting
Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat		Methodology Coordination of the implementation of the work programme on indicators of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including: Development of methodology sheets for indicators of sustainable development (1996) Identification of inter-linkages among indicators (1996-1997) Development of highly aggregated indicators (1996-1997) Further development of frameworks (1996-1997) Enhancement of information exchange (1996-1999)	

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat (continued)		Technical cooperation Training and capacity-building at national and regional levels (1996-1999) Indicators to be tested by Governments at the national level	
Economic Commission for Africa	Data collection African Compendium of Environment Statistics (1997) Methodology Compendium of Key Issues in Environmental Statistics for Africa (1996) Guidelines on environmental statistics for Africa (1997) Technical cooperation Technical support to national/subregional efforts in the implementation of environmental statistics programmes	Data collection Computer printouts of statistical environmental indicators (annual)	Methodology Guidelines on environmental accounting for Africa (1998) Technical cooperation Technical support to national efforts in the implementation of environmental accounting programmes in the more advanced African countries
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Data collection Data collection of available data from ESCWA countries	Data collection Collection of environment indicators at level of ESCWA region, based on a core set of indicators developed by the Statistics Division (1997)	

/...

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	<u>Data collection</u> Information exchange on environment data collection and reporting in various countries in the ECLAC region Preparation of a directory of Latin American and Caribbean organizations involved in the production and compilation of environmental statistics and indicators, using information received from questionnaires <u>Methodology</u> Discussions with countries on international frameworks, classifications, concepts and methods of environment statistics and the possible adaptation of them to the needs and conditions in the ECLAC countries <u>Technical cooperation</u> It is planned to prepare and carry out a regional programme for the development of a system of environmental statistics in the ECLAC countries by holding meetings and workshops	<u>Data collection</u> Development of a joint Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) (Mexico)/ECLAC questionnaire to be used to undertake a survey of the present state of environment information in Latin America and the Caribbean Based on information obtained from the survey, preparation of a diagnostic analysis of the availability, coverage and sources of environment information being produced in the ECLAC region	

/...

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Data collection Continuation of the compilation of basic environment-related data on crop and livestock production, fishery and forestry production, and land and input use (fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural machinery) etc.; and dissemination via the Internet, FAO diskettes and publications Methodology Improvement of environment-related statistics in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and collaboration with other United Nations bodies insofar as they relate to new data to be collected through agricultural censuses and surveys. Publication of The State of the World's Forests, which describes the state of forest resources, commodity production and trade, as well as policy relevant institutional issues Technical cooperation Promotion, in connection with agricultural censuses and surveys, of the collection of new data required	Data collection In collaboration with other United Nations bodies, calculate and regularly update a set of environmental indicators for joint use. Expand the coverage of various time series data to enable the derivation of indicators for a larger number of countries Methodology Preparation of a guide for national statistical offices entitled "Agri-environmental statistics and indicators of sustainable development" Collaborate with national and regional bodies in the development of appropriate indicators Development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management Technical cooperation Actively involved in a number of international initiatives to develop criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, such as the Helsinki process, the Montreal process, the Tarapoto proposals and the dry-zone-Africa initiative. Also organizing expert meetings in the Near East and Central America for review of issues relating to dry zones	Methodology Preliminary work on drafting guidelines for adopting a sectoral approach for compiling environmental accounts Establishment of links between the overall system and the system for agriculture Test of the feasibility of the methodology developed in some developing countries Development of concepts and methods of estimation for components of environmental accounts, such as fish stock, stock of standing timber and economic value of non-wood forest products
World Health Organization		Data collection File of external investments in health and environment Country data collection, analysis and dissemination on water supply and sanitation, water and air quality and environmental health in the occupied Palestinian territories	

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
World Health Organization (continued)		Data collection (continued) Information exchange on environmental data collection and reporting Continuation and improvement (data quality, expansion of scope and coverage) of ongoing data collection and dissemination Field testing of methodologies developed Preparation of a world health and environment report for 1997, with data on environmental health hazards and their public health impact Decade monitoring system of water supply and sanitation. This system is being continuously updated based on data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring Programme, and from information collected through WHO regional and country offices Methodology Joint Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring Programme and the Water Supply and Sanitation Monitoring System. Data on coverage and type of water supply and sanitation systems An environmental health monitoring system (information on environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories) Small Community Environmental Monitoring. Information on compliance on environmental legislation Global Air Quality Monitoring Programme, jointly with UNEP Preparation of guidance on monitoring and data analysis methodologies	

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
World Health Organization (continued)		Methodology (continued)	
		Global Freshwater Quality Monitoring Programme (WHO/UNEP/UNESCO/WHO)	
		Health and Environment Analysis for Decision-making (HEAD-LAMP) project	
		Establishment of emissions inventory systems for environmental data	
		Guidelines for decision-making and management in water pollution control and environmental health	
		Develop guidelines and promotional materials for Information for Decision-making in Environment and Health (IDEAH), an umbrella activity incorporating all WHO activities in this area	
		Publication of a document on methods and applications of environmental health indicators	
		Technical cooperation	
		Support of national efforts to improve planning and management through the strengthening of monitoring capacity	
		Training at selected locations on key topics related to the monitoring and analysis of air quality data	
		Expansion of technical cooperation through training and seminars on monitoring and rapid assessment in developing countries and countries in economic transition	
		Support of technology transfer in the field of air pollution monitoring and in the use of rapid assessment methods	
		Organize training workshops on HEAD-LAMP and IDEAH methodologies in developing countries	

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements/ Habitat	Data collection Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics (1995), joint United Nations Statistics Division/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements publication City Data Programme for particular sections of infrastructure and environment. Data collection is carried out in the context of the joint Large Cities Statistics Project	Data collection Waste management indicators, developed by the settlements infrastructure environment programme Environmental management indicators, developed by the indicators programme Infrastructure and environment indicators contained in the Large Cities Statistics Questionnaire	
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Data collection Database on international trade in waste and recoverable materials Technical cooperation Support to the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention in identifying waste streams important to trade Support to the secretariat of the Basel Convention in establishing an information management system on wastes	Data collection Based on UNCTAD database on minerals and metals and FAO data on agricultural production, consumption and trade, calculation of long-term trends in intensity of use of the most important industrial input materials (i.e., physical consumption per unit of GDP at constant prices). This indicator is part of the working list of indicators of the Commission on Sustainable Development for chapter 4 (Changing consumption patterns) of Agenda 21	

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
United Nations Environment Programme		Data collection Coordinating, with the United Nations Statistics Division of information-sharing between organizations on data collection Encouraging greater user involvement Promoting the use of indicators and the presentation of environmental data and information collection Methodology Review of international work, such as the recently produced state-of-the-art report on indicators, produced in conjunction with the National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection of the Netherlands Harmonization of approaches. Following a World Bank workshop in September 1994 to promote international agreement and cooperation in the development of a core set of sustainable development indicators, proposals for approaches to indicator development are being prepared Support of the development of descriptive indicators in a selected number of areas corresponding to major UNEP programmes Assistance to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in the development and building of international agreement on the basic set of indicators	Methodology UNEP will focus its work in 1996/1997 on the preparation, in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, of a user-friendly manual on integrated environmental and economic accounting

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
		Coordinate with the United Nations Statistics Division through the consultative expert group for informal collaboration in the field of indicators Development of selected number of aggregate indicators, consistent with Agenda 21, to support specified international policies, identification of priorities and allocation of resources Support and guidance to the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment/ UNEP indicator project	
World Bank	Data collection Although the Bank may collect certain environmental data in the context of specific operational work, it does not compile such data on a regular basis	Data collection No large-scale direct data collection is planned. However, the Bank collects environmental indicators from a variety of sources both for internal and external dissemination. Indicators on commercial energy use, land use and urbanization, and forest and water resources will be included in the forthcoming publication World Development Indicators Methodology The Bank is actively cooperating with the Commission on Sustainable Development in developing a set of agreed-upon indicators and the methodology to arrive at such indicators. To that end, the Environment Department, which represents the Bank at sessions of the Commission has hosted several workshops on the subject, and has produced reports and documents, including "Environmental performance indicators: a first edition note"	Methodology Cooperate with and support the United Nations Statistics Division and UNEP in the preparation of a user-friendly operational manual of integrated environmental and economic accounting. Also, based on lessons learned from case studies planned for 1996 and 1997, replicable methodologies will be arrived at for the development of guidelines in 1997 Technical cooperation Technical and methodological support to three countries (South Africa, Indonesia and Costa Rica) in the implementation of important aspects of environmental accounting. Related workshop and training exercises are also envisaged for 1997

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
Statistical Office of the European Communities	<u>Data collection</u> Harmonize and improve quality of data collected in the joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaire. Special attention to water statistics General expenditure data collection using SERIEE methodology Create formalized legal basis for collecting waste statistics General data collection on water resources and use Add additional environmentally relevant data to sectoral statistics <u>Methodology</u> Start work on environmental taxes and subsidies Start work on material flows Nomenclature of sources of emissions Operational nomenclatures for waste statistics Material flows manual Sectoral (e.g., nutrient) balances <u>Technical cooperation</u> Include Central and Eastern European countries in development of concepts and methods Offer (small amounts of) in-house training Start cooperation with countries on southern and eastern coast of the Mediterranean	<u>Data collection</u> Mainly reuse of other data Regional (subnational) environmental indicators <u>Methodology</u> Development of an emission structure information system for the regular production of environmental pressure indicators Development of indicators and indexes of pressures (choice and weights) using expert opinions Sustainability indicators Development of land-use indicators <u>Technical cooperation</u> Include transition economies in the methodological development of indicators	<u>Data collection</u> See environment statistics Data for physical accounts <u>Methodology</u> Participation in the work of the London Group Development of pilot natural resource accounts Development of environmental accounts linked to national accounting matrices Land-use accounting <u>Technical cooperation</u> Inclusion of transition countries in methodological work

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
Inter-state Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States	Data collection Collection processing and compiling of data from national statistical services of CIS; further development and improvement of that work in 1996 and later Collection and analysis of information on ecology in CIS and other countries and international organizations Methodology Development of recommendations on calculation of pollutants from road transport Technical cooperation Advise national services in the field of data collection	Data collection Environmental Protection in CIS Countries (1996) Publication of statistical and analytical papers Calculation of indicators for inclusion in the CIS statistical yearbook Methodology Preparation of proposals concerning methodological standards for environmental indicators	Data collection Collection of data on expenditures for environment protection Methodology Improvement of data collection on expenditure for environmental protection and other cost indicators Case studies on environmental accounting
International Statistical Institute	International Environmental Statistics Newsletter, an international exchange of information on environmental statistics ISI Environment Committee, a forum for the discussion of issues related to statistical education (the Committee is responsible for the above-mentioned Newsletter)		

Organization/body	Environment statistics	Environmental indicators	Environmental accounting
World Wide Fund for Nature		Data collection Second annual report of Green Gauge, a publicity-oriented report on trends in the United Kingdom environment, with non-governmental organizations In 1995, publications included indicators for use in the European Community Structural Funds process, indicators for actions for the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in 1995, environmental indicators for the United Kingdom, a southern perspective on indicators, a European forest "scorecard", and a methodology for measuring forest quality Methodology Preparation of a users' guide for the development of indicators of sustainable development at the community level, with the New Economics Foundation Preparation of learning materials on indicators of process and impact for integrated conservation and development projects Development of an international index of the state of the environment, with the World Resources Institute and World Conservation Monitoring Centre	Methodology Follow-up work to the May 1995 conference on SNA reform, organized by WWF, the European Community and the Club of Rome Follow-up work on the October 1995 conference on SNA reform, organized by UNEP and the World Bank Application of SEEA to the conditions and concerns of the United Kingdom

/...

Table 2. Priorities

Organization/body	First priority	Second priority
United Nations Statistics Division	Compilation of environmental indicators	Manual on environmental statistics and indicators
	Operational manual on integrated environmental and economic accounting	Technical cooperation
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	Development of methodology sheets for indicators of sustainable development	Enhancement of information exchange
	Training and capacity-building for indicator development and use at the national and regional levels	Development of highly aggregated indicators
	Indicators to be tested by Governments at the national level	Development of frameworks
	Identification of inter-linkages among indicators	
Economic Commission for Africa	Development and strengthening of environment statistics in Africa	Development of indicators on major environmental concerns of Africa
		Environmental accounting for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	To ascertain, through the use of questionnaire responses and the national diagnostic analyses prepared by countries, the degree of availability, scope and coverage of environmental statistics and indicators being produced in the Latin American and Caribbean countries	Technical support to national/regional efforts developing and strengthening capabilities in the field of environment statistics and indicators

/...

Organization/body	First priority	Second priority
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	To establish a database on environment statistics for the ESCWA region. Resources were not approved in the 1996-1997 biennium. This activity will be rescheduled in 1998-1999	Collection of available environment statistics and indicators for ESCWA countries. Such data will be published in a separate chapter of the ESCWA Statistical Abstract or the Compendium of Social Statistics
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Continuation of the compilation of basic environment-related data Calculate, update and expand the coverage of a set of environmental indicators Preparation of a guide entitled "Agri-environmental statistics and indicators of sustainable development"	Methodological work to: (a) Establish links between the global system and the system of agriculture (b) Test the feasibility of the methodology developed in some of the developing countries
World Health Organization	Develop approaches for environmental health indicators that help countries to avoid duplication, reduce unnecessary monitoring and improve the use of meaningful data in decision-making Strengthen country capacity to collect and interpret key information in accordance with recommendations for "Health for all" monitoring	Achieve intersectoral communication and collaboration (both at country and international levels) in order that data and statistics collected by each sector become useful for the other sectors' sustainable development programmes, with a focus on strengthening the health sector role in this work

Organization/body	First priority	Second priority
Statistical Office of the European Communities	Harmonize and improve quality of data collected in the joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaire, paying special attention to water statistics	Start on environmental taxes and subsidies
		Start on material flows
	Generalize expenditure data collection using the SERIEE methodology	Material flows manual
		Sectoral (e.g., nutrient balance)
	Create a formalized legal basis for collecting waste statistics	Include Central and Eastern European countries in development of concepts and methods
	General data collection on water resources and use	Offer (small amounts of) in-house training
	Add additional environmentally relevant data to sectoral statistics	Start cooperation with countries on Southern and Eastern coast of the Mediterranean
	Nomenclature of sources of emissions	
	Operational nomenclatures for waste statistics	Mainly reuse of other data
		Sustainability indicators
	Regional (subnational) environmental indicators	Develop land-use indicators
	Development of an emission structure information system for the regular production of environmental pressure indicators	See environment statistics
		Data for physical accounts
		Land-use accounting
	Development of indicators and indexes of pressure (choice and weights) using expert opinions	Include transition countries in methodological reflection
	Continue activity in London Group	
	Develop environmental accounts linked to national accounting matrices	

Organization/body	First priority	Second priority
Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of the Independent States	Collection and dissemination of data Publication of environmental protection in CIS countries Development of recommendations on calculation of pollutants from road transport Technical advisory services to national agencies	Improvement of data collection on expenditure for environmental protection Case studies on environmental accounting
World Wide Fund for Nature	Applied SEEA studies for a range of developing and OECD countries Powerful and concise indicators related to Agenda 21 clusters, to guide the 1997 five-year review of Agenda 21 Building capacity in developing countries for the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate and timely environmental statistics	

Appendix

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS AND INVITED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Members

Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Monetary Fund

International Statistical Institute

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Inter-State Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Statistical Office of the European Community

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

World Bank

World Health Organization

World Meteorological Organization

World Tourism Organization

Invited non-governmental organizations

World Resources Institute

World Wide Fund for Nature